

Minutes
Special Meeting
Muncie Common Council
300 North High Street
Muncie, Indiana 47305

Monday, October 18, 2021

Finance Meeting: 6:30 P.M., 1st Floor City Hall Auditorium.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Judge Amanda Dunnuck.

Roll Call:	Present	Absent
Aaron Clark	X	
Ro Selvey	X	
Troy Ingram	X	
Jeff Green	X	
Jeff Robinson	X	
Brandon Garrett	X	
Brad Polk	X	
Jerry Dishman	X	
Anitra Davis	X	

Order of Business: President Robinson states this is the third and final budget meeting/Special Meeting of the Council and they are hoping to pass the budget this evening although they do have a couple more departments to go through.

I.T. Department

Adam Williams, City IT Department, spoke to President Robinson last week and mentions there are a couple suggested changes that he is willing to answer any questions from the Council on about that. Williams mentions the high-percentage bar budget is fixed with annual contract expenses so it doesn't vary a whole lot on those sides. There are some contractual increases on several of the contracts that exist that they normally adjust in the budget request for that.

Robinson states he sent out a note on Friday to the Council after his conversation with Williams and a couple others with suggested increases. If there are any questions about that, Williams will be happy to entertain those.

Councilman Clark asks if it was just an oversight on Williams' part (to not include those increases in the original budget) or is there a reason they are going after this money. Williams indicated Robinson contacted him and questioned if they had a wish list then what are some of the things that would be helpful. So, they gathered some increases for some specific one time expenditures. These are things where they normally would either put off one thing to do the others or phase them in over time. However, if there ever were opportunity where they came into some additional revenue that would allow them to have that budget increase then that would be a short list they were able to come up with to jumpstart a few things and (maybe) be a couple years ahead on this or that of some of their normal schedule upgrades. Clark clarifies

it is a wish list so it is not necessarily needed at this time. Williams states it'll be done eventually so whether it needs to be done now versus later is a discretionary question. What they submitted is what they originally planned on but that was the discussion, if it were available, what would really help out and adjust them a little bit ahead and that is the short list they came up with. Clark clarifies during these conversations with President Robinson if anyone with the Controller's Office or in the Mayor's Office was aware of what was happening or if this was just a one-on-one meeting or email. Williams states he didn't but Clark would have to speak with Robinson on that. Robinson explains he reached out to all the Department Heads and that the Mayor as well as the Controller knew he was doing so. When he heard there were 10 computers in the Building Commissioner's Office that needed replaced, he wanted to be proactive rather than reactive to any additional needs that the IT department might have in terms of computers.

Councilman Ingram asks how long it has been since they replaced any of those computers. Williams states that is a good question. He doesn't have that list in front of him but they prioritize by age and also by usage. He expects them all to be in the 5-year category. Williams comments that they usually try to stretch a few of them a little bit further depending on the specific Departments in need.

Councilwoman Davis thanks him for being here and knows there are a lot of people that come in and take over systems nowadays. She asks how big of a priority that is in this Department. Are we covered? Does he think if someone wanted to, they could come in and take over the City... Williams prefers they don't try and adds there are plans and systems in place in case they do but they probably wouldn't want to go into detail on the tools that they utilize during a public meeting. They do as much due diligence as they can and obviously, if they wanted to spend \$1 million dollars on that defense then they could but it still probably will not keep people out. But, yes, there's multiple layers. Davis asks how much, (not \$1 million) would get us to where we are really prepared for something such as that. She knows we are prepared but wonders if there is some sort of upgrade the Department could use. Williams can't necessarily come up with a specific figuration. It is a multi-layered preventative methodology that they use on these things. He uses the example of having this appliance here, that software there and another appliance doing something else. Yes, they always have those needs and work hard to find solutions. This year, they purchased some network monitoring tools as another mechanism that will be doing another functionality they are looking at (like other software tools and hardware tools) to do over time. However, those were not things that he could price up quickly and come up with a solution of it being X, Y or Z cost.

Councilman Green asks if they find this to be necessary now or if they are having problems with hackers trying to break in and get in to the system. Williams indicates they have a relatively low public footprint that they manage directly. For example, the website is third-party hosted so those entities are responsible for protecting that side. Again, Williams explains the City is not a business that has a ton of forward-facing processes out there that are exposed for constant hacking so that is the good news. But, a government entity is always a target. They do their due diligence the best they can.

Councilman Ingram mentions he previously received two emails from the Mayor asking him to go out and buy \$300 worth of iTunes gift cards for him. Councilman Garrett adds he did too. Williams indicates the bad guys are very creative so one of these solutions is KnowBe4 which is a knowledge training tool that they have been utilizing for the past three years. It has video training sessions and on top of that, many of these companies are utilizing something similar to this. They will send out practice emails to the employees (which are really

convincing) and see how many people have been able to apply what they have learned in other training videos to prevent from clicking on those links. It is a good reminder tool but still is not cheap. If they could expense that off this wish list then that would allow them to use other funds for other improvements. There is significant cost savings a lot of times on these things so they could save money by doing a three or five-year contract aside from just annually. It was one they thought they could add in and if it worked, great, if not, they will continue to do it but probably not for a year multi-contractual obligation. Questions called.

City Clerk

President Robinson states the City Clerk, Belinda Munson, could not be here this evening but he communicated with her earlier today and she didn't have any additions or revisions to be had in her budget. He thinks it is pretty standard from what it was last year across the board. If anyone has any questions, he is unsure if the Council Secretary would be able to answer anything but they can take that up when they get into the actual budget process. Munson, however, informed there was no additional changes.

City Attorney

Sarah Shade Hamilton, City Attorney's Office, is willing to answer any questions. After no questions, she jokes this was everyone's opportunity to finally ask an attorney a question. They thank her for being here.

City Court

Judge Amanda Dunnuck explains the Administration approached her last year asking her to put four employees (instead of just two) out of Probation User Fees (#9501) so she did that. This year, moving forward, she is moving the two back into City General (#0101). The reason being collections being up for 2021 because many people who owed fines and costs received stimulus money, however, that stimulus money will not be here next year but also due to Covid, the case filings are lower. She wants to be somewhat conservative with the Probation User Fees, seeing how it is a user-fee fund and does not want to drain it more than what they have to (aside from the circumstance of an emergency) reiterating she moved two of the employees currently being paid out of Probation User Fees this year back into City General. Judge Dunnuck then refers to the salary increases of 2% because that is what she thought it was but then it changed to 3% and then it wasn't however that increase is there because she was asked to put it in there. Additionally, the Software Maintenance Agreement line #436015 went up by \$1,000 but there was a reduction of Computers and Printer line #444072 by \$1,000 essentially. That is just making sure they are paying the right stuff out of the right line item. It is the same money but she would rather pay Maintenance Agreements out of Maintenance Agreements instead of paying them out of Computers and Printer.

Councilman Dishman confirms that the Animal Shelter fines come through this court. Judge Dunnuck states yes, if the Animal Shelter files an ordinance against someone, it is filed in Muncie City Court. Dishman then asks where the fine money goes, knowing she gets the court costs. Judge Dunnuck informs she actually does not get the court cost and explains the fine is determined by ordinance and that amount is supposed to be paid to the Clerk's Office along with the filing fee. The City only collects and retains 40% of every filing fee on an ordinance violation and on a criminal case. The rest of the filing fee gets distributed pursuant

to statute to go towards state agencies, law enforcement funds and things of that nature. On an ordinance, 100% of the fine is kept by the City. Where it goes, what the Clerk does with it or where the ordinance calls for it to go, she is unsure of. Dishman asks if she knows how much the City has brought in from the fines. Judge Dunnuck states she does not know from a collections standpoint as she just assesses the fines and does not collect the fines. She is aware of an issue at one point whether people were paying at the Shelter or paying here at City Hall and explains she has been working with the City Attorneys trying to get everything ironed and smoothed out. Dishman just wanted to know where that money is going to, that's all. Judge Dunnuck states as far as she would know, it would be going back into City General but informs that the Clerk could run those reports in their system as she does not have that authority or knowledge. City Council Secretary, Lacey Jones, informs that off the top of her head, she would not know that information but there are reports that they can run in the Clerk's Office to see that breakdown. Dishman asks if those can be provided. Jones states yes. Judge Dunnuck explains they hear City ordinances one month, twice a month and then once a month again and Animal Control take up the vast majority of the cases, along with Parking. Dishman states the Animal Control is in bad shape financially and was just curious where the money was going once a person was cited. The Judge imagines all the money is to be receipted into the Clerk's Office and then distributed by the City Controller. Questions called.

Board of Works

Craig Wright, City Controller, mentions the Communications Center line # 432041 obviously went up \$100,000 and everything else stayed in the line with last year. Questions called.

Amendments/Vote

President Robinson informs they have heard from all the Departments so they will now go on to making amendments and voting on the budget. Before they do so, he asks if there are any comments, questions, concerns or anything else from the Council. Hearing none, Robinson continues mentioning how he provided the rest of the members with a breakdown. To Councilman Clark's concern earlier when it came to Robinson reaching out to Department Heads, he communicated to the Mayor as well as a Controller that he wanted to reach out to see if there were any additional requests and things like that. Robinson felt that as the Finance Chair, it was important to do their due diligence and reach out to Departments and hear what they may have. It is not necessarily something they need to go with but he wanted to give them the opportunity to provide some additional information for any potential increases. When they received the budget, it showed a budget surplus of about \$820,329 but that is not a true budget surplus. \$700,000 of the \$820,329 is actually from the Local Road & Street Fund (#0706) and must be appropriated back to the Street Department's budget for 2021 so there is actually about \$120,329 surplus in the City's General Fund as it stands now. Additionally, (and these can be seen on the 2022 budget status/requested increase that Robinson states he put on every councilmembers chair) \$500,000 was appropriated in the 2022 budget for the Rainy Day Fund making the total money currently available (if you include the \$700,000 the Local Road & Street Fund) at \$1,320,329. After hearing from some Department Heads, most notably the Animal Shelter, during the budget meetings and the one-on-one conversations, there are still some needs and wants throughout those departments that are not accounted for in the

budget. By removing the \$700,000 from the Local Road & Street Fund, there is actually a total of \$620,329. Now, the total requested increases equals \$537,089. Robinson is not suggesting this now but wants to let everybody know kind of where they are at, that if all the requested increases are funded to the full amount that would leave \$83,240 to appropriate back to the Rainy Day Fund with a fully funded 2022 municipal budget. He makes sure the rest of the Council follows. Something else he thinks they need to take into consideration before discussing any amendments and talking about any requests or increases; next year they are contractually obligated to for 2% raises for city employees. Robinson states they will have to budget for that next year for the 2023 budget year. According to the City Controller, that amount is a total of \$334,651. So, if the revenue holds firm next year compared to what it is this year, that is where it stays. Where it is at now and if they fully fund the requested increases this year, he is concerned that the City won't have the funding to provide for those raises and the ongoing costs associated with the any requested increases this year. Robinson acknowledges the biggest change to the budget is the lack of any appropriation from the Mayor's EDIT Funds to offset the City General. Last year, for the 2021 budget, there was approximately \$1.1 million from EDIT compared to \$0 in 2022. For context and historically, the City's General Fund has received funds from EDIT with a 6-year annual average being \$1,386,876.50. Before they move forward with any requests from Department Heads for any additional appropriations to their budget, Robinson believes they need to get some assurances from the Mayor that there will be an appropriation of EDIT dollars to be able to make up for any potential shortfalls next year. He explains without getting that assurance there could be some more EDIT funds next year appropriated, he is concerned that they are not going to be able to make all the requested increases. There are increases in the Police Department that are by all accounts necessary and they all understand that there is some additional increases for the Animal Shelter that they believe are also necessary. If the Mayor can provide some sort of clarity on next year then they would all feel much more comfortable if they knew that they are going to have an additional appropriation of EDIT funds next year.

Mayor Dan Ridneour confirms when Robinson says "next," what year he is taking about. Robinson explains he is talking about 2023. The Mayor does not see that happening and here's why... the reason he had to clear out those EDIT funds... and keep in mind very few cities across the state use EDIT funds, which is an economic development income tax, to supplement the budgets. It is very unusual but is perfectly legal and acceptable to do but the Mayor has continued to drive that down and here is why. Councilman Clark just so happens sits on a Committee that is looking at how to upgrade our fire stations, as the condition is sad and in need of major improvements and the way that is going to be paid for is out of EDIT funds. Therefore, he does not see funds available in 2023 to pay for as that will be one of the big items that will be on there. Now, the Mayor explains they have a November meeting scheduled to hear from four firefighters with varying ranges of seniority that are also on that Committee, along with Councilman Clark, Deputy Mayor Richard Ivy, Mayor Ridenour and Fire Chief David Miller. They did a RFP and contracted with GM Development who has completed their results, surveyed all the firefighters and are coming up with what needs to happen with our fire stations. The most recent one was built in 1986 (roughly, as he may be off a year or two) but they're in sad need of improvement. He has also never liked the fact regarding the fire station up in McCulloch where if the trains sit just wrong they block Centennial, McGalliard and Wysor meaning there is no support for the residents living on that side of the City. That doesn't happen all the time but for anyone that has driven on the northeast side, they know it does happen so that's one of the things that this this group is looking at. The Committee will

provide results in November then the City will go back and determine what can be done but all of that is going to be paid out of the EDIT Funds so that's one of the reasons he had to get this down to where it is zero. He is well aware of our financial situations and that is why they have tried to be financially careful in the previous year with the budget. The other section is the solar field at the former Chevy plant being paid for from EDIT funds at just under \$1 million dollars. The funds coming in from the sale of that energy will be going directly into the General Fund and not into the EDIT Funds. He is trying to solve the issues for our city, long-term, and solar panels will last on average 30-years. Long after he is gone from this Administration and probably most of the current members will be off the Council by then while it is still going to be generating revenue into the General Fund. The estimates from that Solar Company are around \$29 million over those 30-years meaning it will be a sizeable increase to the General Fund coming when the solar project happens. Those two pieces are why he is actually going to be spending more than what has been put into the General Fund from EDIT in the past but that is because he is doing everything he can to build up the General Fund. In giving a couple more quick examples, Mayor Ridenour explains how he worked hard to make Gilman's, which is going in on South Madison, be a cash project, out of pocket and not place it in a TIF district. Therefore, 100% of those taxes collected will be coming into the General Fund and going to Muncie Community Schools and all the other entities depending on those tax revenues. Storer Estates is another example that he worked hard to make sure they pay cash for the project so that it isn't placed in a TIF district. Therefore all of those tax revenues that will be generated once those houses are built (yes, there's no tax revenue until the houses are built) but once done, all of those tax revenues will be benefiting (again) Muncie Community Schools, the General Fund and all those entities that rely on those. Additionally, City View, which comes up at the next Council meeting and the Tax Abatement Committee has already met, involves properties that are not in TIF districts either so additional funds that will come to the General Fund tax revenues but will also help the Muncie Community Schools and the other tax entities. Mayor Ridenour hesitates to say that in 2023, he is going to be in a position to pay more out of the EDIT funds but thinks that this Council, based on his efforts, will have more funds available in 2023. That is why he has worked hard to get them to where the General Fund income can manage the General Fund expenses and that the City can put itself in a position to make an investment in solar and other projects to raise that General Fund. Mayor Ridenour knows how critical it is, long-term, and references his two young grandchildren in this community. He wants them to be in a position to be proud of their City and won't have to worry about the General Fund. He continues how he wants to make sure that the services needed as a City are available to those citizens, long after he is out of the Mayor's Office. That is what his plan is. Obviously, it is still a plan and he can say the solar is in negotiations right now and they are reaching final stages. Also, he knows that the Fire Department upgrades are very, very close in November so they may have something soon on both of those. In fact, the Mayor mentions he has to close on the solar by February. He is open to answering any questions.

Councilman Green questions what type of work is planning on being done with the Fire Department and if it is structural, façade, etc. Mayor Ridenour answers in his first year he had originally did a small contract with RQAW to look at two different fire stations, the one at McCulloch Park and the other on Tillotson. He felt like they were both in need of expanding so that they could put more vehicles in so they would be able to provide the backup support needed for those residents in Ball State and the northeast side of the City. He explains that Councilman Clark came to him and agreed that they should look at the entire Fire Department.

What they are looking at is if we have enough stations, where the station's should be, if each individual station has something that can be upgraded or brought up to proper standards or do they have to build new. At this point, he does not know what the recommendations are as they haven't been shared and is upcoming in November but they're looking at if they would be building new in some locations or should they just adding-on to existing locations. Regarding that, Mayor Ridenour explains he would like to have four bays on some of the two bays station so that they can put extra equipment in there. He adds they have a big tower truck but the tallest buildings are in Ball State and they don't have the room there with only two bays, one an ambulance and one a first responder truck (and apologizes as he does not know what it is called) but they had to move the tower truck out of there. Again, there is where the tallest buildings are and he wants it back where it belongs which is right by those particular facilities that need it. He adds that they are waiting for the results on that and haven't made a big deal of it and did it all publicly but they don't know the results. They are looking at their expert opinion on where it needs to go and the Fire Department, every single one of them was offered a survey but he is unsure of how many actually filled it out but thinks it was very good participation. They have had not only the Chief but also four Firefighters in the meetings as well. Green thanks him. Mayor Ridenour adds that they are looking forward to seeing what they can do to upgrade those stations.

President Robinson expresses his only concern when it comes to next year's budget (the 2022 budget) is that the General Fund is absorbing \$215,000 that last year were, at least partially, paid for out of EDIT. That consists of the Street Superintendent and the City Engineer position, created with ordinance 20-21, and the other big one of a \$135,000 AXON body cam contract with the Police Department, which was previously paid out of the MRC. Therefore, the General Fund is taking on more obligations. He is concerned moving forward as they continue to shift (and he can certainly appreciate the desire to shift more where the General Fund can be more self-sufficient without the use of those EDIT funds) but as they shift some of these obligations to the General Fund it is making things tighter and tighter. They have an obligation as a Council, particularly, to provide the vital services that is seen in this budget (the Streets, Police, Fire, EMS, Merit Commissions, Animal Shelter, Prairie Creek, etc.) As more obligations shift to the General Fund it makes things more difficult on the Council on the non-discretionary spending. That is his concern. Mayor Ridenour states he can certainly understand that but the revenues are way up and that's why the General Fund can handle it with a balanced budget that they submitted, whether it was \$820,000 or \$120,000 after the Street Department and currently (before Council takes action) there is still \$500,000 going toward the savings account (or the Rainy Day Fund). So, there is \$620,000 extra that would alone fund the increases next year. The Mayor states they are hopeful but, again, they don't know. They are hopeful they will have increased revenues next year and if they continue to move forward then that should be the case. The way they're doing solar field is by building sections at a time which go online right away, even if the entire project is not yet finished and expects there could be some electricity income in the fall of 2022. He thinks they should be in a position with the 2022 budget is balanced and if they make the changes earlier mentioned, it's still balanced. It is not enough to cover 2022 but he thinks with the revenues from Gilman's, City View and the solar project, it is his expectations the General Fund should be fine in 2023. Questions called.

Robinson states they will move through the departments as they solve them, starting with Building Commissioner and working their way all the way to the Board of Works. As earlier mentioned, there were requested increases in these departments and these are not

something that they are bound to. As he said, he felt it was important to communicate with Department Heads and do their due diligence as a Council, as a Finance Committee and most importantly to hear what their needs are and then also to hear some of their wants, as well, so that those considerations can be made. Also mentioned, if they approve every single requested increase that has been made then left over will be \$83,240 for an appropriation to the Rainy Day Fund. As they move forward, he would like to make a motion on the Rainy Day Fund (#102) and decrease the total amount of the requested increases. Then, they can go through the budget, do a running tally of those increases that they approve the amendments on and then by the time they get done with it, they will know how much is left over and add. Council Attorney Gibson informs before they can get into the amendments, they need a motion to adopt to begin with (as the main motion) and then all amendments can be considered separately thereafter.

A motion is made by Selvey and seconded by Polk to Adopt. A motion is made by Robinson and seconded by Ingram to amend by decreasing the Rainy Day Fund #102 in line #439071 for the time being and subtract \$416,760 making the new total on line #439071 a total of \$621,558. A roll call vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Amended.**

Amendments to the Building Commissioner's Office Budget:

President Robinson states they are going to go department by department, beginning with the Building Commissioner's Office, discussing each of the line items where there is a requested increase and if anyone so chooses to make an amendment, certainly they will entertain that. The first requested increase is Zoning and Structural Inspector (line #411038) with an increase of a total of \$2,040 to cover an increase for a staff member who will be part responsible for the new ordinance recently passed on abandoned and vacant structures, ordinance 42-21. No further discussion. Additionally, there's another increase of \$2,040 in the Unsafe Building Code Enforcement line item (line #411080) that will again provide a dollar increase for the staff member who will be spending extra time on that same ordinance, 42-21. No further discussion. Office supplies (line #421011) with an additional increase of \$2,000 and would make that line item \$12,260. Again, a \$2,000 increase and anticipated increase cost for ordinance 42-21.

Councilman Polk explains on that line item, they had already requested from 2021 to 2022 a \$1,700 increase and questions if this one they can make a suggestion. He recommends decreasing the Office Supplies (line #421011) increase by \$1,000 making it \$1,000 with a total of \$9,260. Polk adds the same thing for Postage (line #432011) as it was increased \$107 and they are anticipating a \$2,500 increase. Realizing that postage is not all new with the new ordinance but if looking at even \$1 per mailing, 2,500 pieces of mail comes to over \$200 a month. So, same suggestion would be to cut that in half to \$1,250 increase instead of the \$2,500 increases. No further discussion on those two items.

Moving on, Robinson mentions Other Services & Charges (line #439071) with several increases totaling \$76,500. \$7,500 of that would be new software for tracking, \$5,000 would be for leans and other legal, \$11,000 for outdated computer replacement (the Building Commissioner shared with him they have ten computers that are all beyond their lifespan so they would be like to be able to replace them) and \$18,000 for the Building Blocks Program. Robinson would like to see something that was discussed when the Building Commissioner was here, a \$35,000 increase to expand the Neighborhood Mowing Program. He recalls the Building Commissioner outlining and working with a group from Urban Light where they provide funding to neighborhoods to do mowing of City properties and putting that money

directly into the hands of people in those neighborhoods. He thinks it is a great program and something that Councilwoman Davis has been a part of and reports great results; therefore, he would like to appropriate \$35,000 to expand that Neighborhood Mowing Program. Questions or further discussion on Other Services & Charges called.

Councilwoman Selvey just wants to let everyone know that Building Blocks is not just a software that the Building Commissioner's Office gets to use. Every Department in the City from Fire, Police and Community Development all benefit. Basically, Building Blocks is from the company Tolemi and is a map-based application that connects and updates data held in different systems and formats across all departments and agencies. City staff can find the answers they need within seconds, run advanced facial analysis and automate reports in a single interface. The Building Blocks provides the City platform to understand trends and build data-driven strategies for code enforcement, housing and development. It provides complete situational awareness and prioritize inspections backlogs and integrates data from multiple departments and systems like mentioned earlier in a single information portal. It has easy to use filters and search tools to quickly identify properties that needs specific criteria relevant to blight in ordinance 42-21. The City can get email alerts when properties meet custom defined triggers to stay on top of changing conditions and stay ahead of the game of blight. She also shared with the Council a testimony from a constituent who has used Building Blocks, Ms. Roddy, that details how relevant and important it was for her when she was looking to relocate her business and received a lot of good information that helped her make that decision. Building Blocks is \$18,000 a year so it is pricey but it can be used across all departments. Questions called.

Councilman Clark asks for clarification of the requested increases for the Mowing because he looks at Other Services & Charges totaling \$76,500 and asks if that is included or is in addition the other requested increases. Robinson confirms it is actually included in that \$76,500. That is the final requested increase in the Building Commissioner's Office so he is happy to entertain any amendments recommending that they do them one by one with a voice vote.

A motion is made by Ingram and seconded by Polk to Amend Zoning Structural Inspector (line #411038) with an increase of \$2,040 making the new total \$89,651. An all-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas and 1 abstain (Selvey). **Amended.**

A motion is made by Ingram and seconded by Davis to Amend Unsafe Building Code Enforcement (line #411080) by an increase of \$2,040 making the new total \$41,797. An all-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas and 1 abstain (Selvey). **Amended.**

A motion is made by Polk and seconded by Ingram to Amend Office Supplies (line #421011) with an increase of \$1,000 making the new total \$11,260. An all-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas and 1 abstain (Selvey). **Amended.**

A motion is made by Polk and seconded by Garrett to Amend Postage (line #432011) with an increase of \$1,250 making the new total \$3,507. An all-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas and 1 abstain (Selvey). **Amended.**

There are several requested changes coming up for Other Services & Charges (line #439071) which they are going to piecemeal as well. A motion is made by Green and seconded by Ingram to Amend Other Services & Charges (line #439071) with an increase for new software for tracking. All in-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas and 1 abstain (Selvey). **Amended.** A motion is made by Polk and seconded by Green to Amend Liens and Other Legal in Other Services in Charges (line #439071) in the amount of \$5,000. An all-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas and 1 abstain (Selvey). **Amended.** A motion is made by Green and seconded by Garret to

further Amend Other Services & Charges in the amount of \$11,000 for outdated computer replacement. An all-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas and 1 abstain (Selvey). **Amended**. A motion is made by Selvey and seconded by Ingram to again Amend Other Services & Charges (line #439071) in the amount of \$18,000 for the Building Blocks Program. An all-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas and 1 abstain (Selvey). **Amended**. A motion is made by Davis and seconded by Garrett to Amend Other Services & Charges (line #439071) in the amount of \$35,000 to expand of the Neighborhood Mowing Program. An all-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas and 1 abstain (Selvey). **Amended**. After the amendments, that makes the new total of other Services & Charges (line #439071) \$98,500. No further discussion.

Amendments to the Mayor's Office Budget:

President Robinson advises there were no recommended or requested increases and asks if there are any motions to amend the Mayor's budget. No further discussion.

Amendments to the Channel 60 Public Access Budget:

Robinson advises, again, there were no recommended or requested increases and asks if anyone is wishing to amend the Channel 60 Public Access. No further discussion.

Amendments to the Controller's Office (Finance Division) Budget:

Robinson informs there was originally a requested increase but that increase has been withdrawn so there are no requested changes to the Controller's budget and asks if there is anyone wanting to make amendments. No further Discussion.

Amendments to the Parks Department Budget:

Robinson states there has been a requested increase of \$75,566 asking for one Full-Time Laborer to help maintain the Parks throughout the City. For reference to the Council, Robinson mentions \$75,566 contains the salary, FICA, PERF, health insurance and is everything all in for one full-time staff member for the Parks Department. A motion is made by Selvey and seconded by Davis to Amend the Parks Department Groundskeeper Utility/Lab (line #411058) for the requested increase of \$75,566. An all-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas and 1 nay (Robinson). **Amended**. No further discussion.

Amendments to the Beech Grove Cemetery Budget:

Robinson informs there are no requested increases and asks if there is any proposed amendments to the Beech Grove Cemetery budget. No further discussion.

Amendments to the Human Resources/Personnel Budget:

Robinson states, again, there are no suggested or requested increases to the Personnel Department and asks if anyone wishes to make any amendments. No further discussion.

Amendments to the Human Rights Commission Budget:

Robinson informs there are no requested increases and asks if anyone would like to make any amendments. No further discussion.

Amendments to the Street Department Budget:

Robinson explains the Street Department has a requested increase of a total of \$700,000 that would go into a Fund #221 that would fall in line #43907 Other Services & Charges bringing the line item total to \$900,000. A motion is made by Selvey and seconded by Polk to

Amend the Street Department Local Road & Street Fund #221 Other Services & Charges (line #43907) for the increase of \$700,000 making the new total \$900,000. An all-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas and 1 nay (Dishman). **Amended.** No further discussion.

Amendments to the Muncie Police Department Budget:

Robinson advises there is a total of requested additional appropriations in MPD amounting to \$82,000. A motion is made by Polk and seconded by Ingram to Amend line item #411130 Patrol Officers for an additional \$27,000 to compensate for three lateral transfer hires making the new total \$5,867,604. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Amended.**

The next request will affect two line items that will experience action and Robinson explains line item #431011 is currently budgeted at \$15,000 and the Department would like to combine Psychological Services with Medical Services and also add \$10,000 between the two line items. The request is to \$0 out the line Psychological Services (#431020) and move the \$20,000 there to Medical Services (#431011) making it \$35,000 in addition to \$10,000. This action makes the total \$45,000 for Medical Services (#431011) and \$0 in Psychological Services (431020).

Councilwoman Selvey asks if it can be explained why this is occurring because Medical and Psychological... she just wants to make sure if somebody has needs regarding mental health or psychological health that they are getting it and it is not all combined. Deputy Police Chief Chris Deegan states some of this is tied to EAP services and some is tied to hiring processes. They have to use a psychological company and a medical company to do the hiring processed-stuff so it would all fall under the same blanket. They believe psychological and mental health issues are health issues and they are trying to get away from the stigma of labeling them as such 'Psychological Services' and are focused on the wellness of the Officers of the Department. They would like to just move it all into Medical Services. Selvey understands it is more releasing the stigma than not providing the services. A motion is made by Polk and seconded by Ingram to Amend and move the \$20,000 in line #431020, which is Psychological Services, into line #431011, which is Medical Services, and adding an increase of \$10,000 making the grand total of \$45,000 in line #431011. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Amended.**

The next suggested change is in the Telephone line (#432031) which is currently budgeted at \$100,000 and seeking an additional \$30,000 for a Cell Phone Program where this money will be used to provide cell phones for Officers. Deputy Chief Deegan reported to the Council at the last budget meeting when he presented that a lot of casework is being done by cell phones so they would like to provide those cell phones for their Officers.

Councilwoman Davis refers to the term "casework" and questions if it is just Officers or are they including caseworkers of social workers or anything like that. Deputy Chief Deegan states for cell phones, no, this is just to provide cell phones to the Police Officers. The best way he can explain this is the AXON Body Capture is one of the programs run by AXON which is their body cam program and they do a lot of evidence collection that way now (which requires the use of a cellphone). This will also allow the Officer to be accessible to directly contact anybody that they take reports for. That is the idea behind it, to streamline this process a little bit, primarily evidence collection and provide access to the Officers that are working cases that might not necessarily make it to Investigations just because of how busy they are. Davis asks if they have thought about the social worker aspect of it at all. Deegan confirms if she means adding social workers. Davis states yes. Deegan just does not know if

they are quite there yet and there isn't funding for it. Davis asks how the Officers were communicating before. Deegan answers their own personal cell phones and they just rolled out the AXON Capture Program probably several months ago. It has been in discussion with the Mayor and his Office and is something they would like to provide if they could and feel it is appropriate if this is how they are going to do evidence collection moving forward. Davis asks if the Officers come back to the building to do their reports or can they do them in the field. Deegan answers they can do reporting either in the field or here at the building explaining there is access to the server in the systems on the computers. He thinks he would have to use an example for AXON Capture to kind of paint that picture. If they respond to a battery call, for instance, with a victim they need to take pictures of, traditionally in years past they have used little digital cameras which then goes to the Evidence Room, gets processed there and then gets sent to the Prosecutor's Office. Now, AXON, their access software program they pay for, is all encompassing so the pictures are taken with cell phones. An Officer takes the picture, it gets logged into a secure server which then grants access to the Property Room and to the Prosecutor's Officer for them to review. It is essentially streamlining the process for evidence review.

Councilman Clark questions if these will be new phones for every individual Officer or would this be paying for their personal so that they can upload this. Deegan states no, they aren't paying for their personal phones, this would just be an issued phone to everybody. Clark asks if there will be something with IT to make sure that these are secure foreseeing these going home with the Officers. Deegan answers yes, this is something that the Chief has worked on directly with Verizon and he knows that IT has been a part of that initial switch to Verizon services. He can't speak to too much more than that other than he knows it is supposed to be secured through the software that is provided. Clark confirms that the money that they are asking for came from a quoted source or is it just an assumption. Deegan explains they started working on what the contract would look like and think it's going to be right in that range, anywhere from \$28,000 to \$32,000 depending on how many phones they get. He leveled it out and made it as round as possible for the Council.

Davis refers to the \$100,000 that is already there and asks what that is paying for. Deegan states several things, their portion of the phone bill for City Hall and their computers have to be equipped with something called AirCards and they have to outfit every car (including Detectives) with an AirCard, typically a hotspot. They pay a fee now to get the internet access to all of those and adds it was discussed with Verizon and AT&T both the idea of doing away with one and not the other and doing a phone to run the computers as (kind of) a hotspot and then they would have access to the phone to do evidence collecting but this is way beyond him. Apparently, in the technical world, the port is too small that the amount of data that would have to go through that is not enough to be run off a cell phone, essentially, is what it was saying. Therefore, they provide the hotspots for all of the cars and the majority of that is coming from the cost in the building plus the cost they have for the fleet in general. A motion is made by Green and seconded by to Amend and appropriate an additional \$30,000 more to Telephone (line #432031) making the new total \$130,000. An all-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas and 1 nay (Davis). Amended.

The following request is Other Services & Charges asking for an additional \$10,000 to satisfy the AXON body cameras for the amount of \$135,000 to satisfy that contract. After riding along with Deputy Chief Deegan, Robinson would also like to see an increase in this line item for \$5,000 for community support. He recalls witnessing Police Officers buy dinner for multiple people that evening. They had discussed some of the other services that the

Department does like if someone needs a safe place to stay, Officers take out of their own pockets to provide for a hotel room, food and other things. After discussion, they agreed that \$5,000 seemed to be enough and Robinson would like for the City to provide that \$5,000 and not ask the Officers to have to pay out of their pockets. He adds they can certainly address the \$10,000 additional for the AXON body camera contract as well. Councilwoman Selvey thinks that is a great idea but would like to see it come with some (not restriction) but specification of what they can and cannot do with that \$5,000 and the Department can come up with their own guidelines. She thinks that would be very beneficial for the Council to know in the future. Robinson responds that is something he would be willing to wait and they can make an additional appropriation to get those guidelines and bring something in December to be able to provide when they have a little bit more clarification. Selvey confirms Deegan is okay with that in which he responds yes.

Dr. Turner states he was Senior Chaplain at the Police Department for twelve years and can surely state that the Council can authorize \$10,000 and any one of these Officers are going to continue to pay that out of their pocket and not turn that information in. He understands the clarifications but he knows these cops and knows what they do with indigents and children.

A motion is made by Polk and seconded by Ingram to Amend Other Services & Charges (#439071) with an increase of \$10,000 to make up for the AXON body camera contract making the new line total to \$235,000. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. Amended.

Clark confirms with Robinson the total amount of the four amendments made to the Police Department show the amount of \$77,000. No further discussion. President Robinson updates everyone where they are at overall (explaining that including the \$700,000 appropriated to the Street Department, this number is a little inflated) and they are currently \$935,396 in increased appropriations.

Amendments to the Animal Shelter Budget:

President Robinson states there is a number of requested increases here so they begin with Part-Time (line #411046) with a suggested increase of \$76,370 which would increase part-time staff pay to \$13 an hour. Councilman Polk suggests amending that amount from \$13 to \$12.75 an hour. Robinson sees if Polk has a grand total with that amount which Polk does not. Referring to the staffing calculator that Director Ethan Browning provided, it has \$12.50 at \$68,625 and \$13 at \$76,370. The difference split in half between the two is \$3,867.50 meaning that at \$12.75 an hour would make a total of \$72,502.50. Polk confirms. A motion is made by Polk (no seconded) to Amend Part-Time (line #411046) with an increase of \$72,502.50 that would provide for an increase in pay to \$12.75 an hour for part-time employees.

Councilwoman Davis doesn't agree and thinks it should stay at \$13 an hour. These are part-time people doing a lot of hard work and \$13 is not a lot of money, to her, to do the work that they do. A motion is made by Davis and seconded by Selvey to Amend Part-Time (line #411046) to keep the suggested increase of \$76,370 taking the part-time pay to \$13 an hour making the new total \$201,370. Councilman Ingram agrees with Davis and recalls them trying to keep employees after having issues throughout the entire City in all Departments with keeping employees. He thinks \$13 would be fair. Councilman Dishman would like to raise it to \$15 an hour. Robinson explains they are going to finish this discussion first and vote on this motion. Council Attorney Dan Gibson adds that Dishman can make a motion to amend that amendment, assuming this one passes. An all-in-favor vote showed 6 yeas and 3 nays (Polk, Dishman and Clark). Amended.

A motion is made by Dishman to Amend the previous amendment and increase Part-Time (line #411046) to \$15 an hour. Robinson requests the estimated cost by the staffing calculator, which Selvey informs it is \$107,350. Robinson explains that, currently, as the amendment stands, the total is \$76,370 and as it would stand with Dishman's amendment to the amendment, the total would be \$107,350. Clark advises that would put them down to \$448,192 going in the Rainy Day Fund. Since the motion does not receive a seconded, there is no further discussion. For the record, Robinson agrees. Dishman comments that their actions do not show it, though. Clark adds that they are getting razor thin at the money remaining. Dishman states the Animal Shelter is working razor thin too.

A motion is made by Selvey and seconded by Polk to Amend Dog and Cat Tech (line #41100) asking for \$29,000 to bring that total into line with the 2021 budgeted amount which would be \$58,240. Polk questions what that would add up to an hour. Robinson confirms it is two people and gets confirmation from an audience member that it is \$14 an hour. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. Amended.

A motion is made by Polk and seconded by Ingram to Amend Animal Control Driver 1 (line #411527) with an increase of \$12,000 bringing it in line with the 2021 budgeted amount of \$98,187. No further discussion. An all-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas and 1 nay (Clark). Amended.

Jim Turner, Vice-President of the Board of Directors of Animal Care & Services, provides documents referencing the budget. He doesn't believe very many are aware of the Interlocal Agreement and the function of the Board at the Animal Shelter. Turner explains they are a Board of seven members of which Dr. Mike Brown is the President. Turner cannot speak referring to all the members but Dr. Mike Brown, Dr. John Boyce, Amber Corden and himself successfully operate their businesses and understand budgets very well. Each month, they as a Board meet to review the total operation of the Muncie Animal Control that includes the annual budget, where they are at and the various needs. He understands the difficulty of financing every City Department and that every Department should argue for every single dollar and they do. As an animal behaviorist, he has done research and written on the subject of animal care and its relationship to community safety and community growth. His point here is that money invested in the Animal Care Department is money invested in our community safety and community growth. The City is not budgeting for low-level employment to give minimum wages to dog catchers. There is a wonderful staff at the Animal Care Facility who are dedicated to a very difficult, often thankless and at times dangerous job. They need funds that reflect the desire to hire people within the set necessary qualifications to perform that job, adding he appreciates what Dishman, as well as the rest Council, has said this evening regarding the needs for qualified people. Turner continues the members of this Board understand and are qualified to address all the areas assigned to them. He wanted to tell the Council, Browning is well qualified as Superintendent of the Animal Care Department and understands everything about this Department because he started at an entry level position. They, as a Board, respect his leadership and he is always prepared and thorough when they meet monthly. Today, staffing is difficult for a variety of reasons. Because Ethan is the Director, who does the interviewing and hiring, it may be thought by the employees that he controls the salary they receive but, of course, the Council knows that that is not fact. Even his salary is embarrassingly low. The wages are in the budget and ultimately the Board is tasked with making sure that they operate within that budget. Unfortunately, they have to operate within a minimum scale framework. This is not Ethan's choice and it is, in fact, not the Board's choice. If the budget is increased (which the Council has already started to vote to do tonight

so he thanks them), the Board will reflect the wages of the employees as they work within that budget. Turner, personally, wishes they could pay the workers more. He explains if they increase the wages too much then they have to cut back on employees and can't function as a Shelter and do what needs to be done. Employment at any wage under \$20 an hour is almost impossible to staff. It seems people cannot afford to work today and staying home has become a cottage industry. Muncie Animal Care and Services is a no-kill animal facility and the Board is committed to that, believing if an animal is healthy, it deserves life. They are committed not to euthanize an animal unless the animal is terminal or dangerous. For quite a period of time, it has been suggested that if they change the no-kill policy, they could better function within the budget. A community's level of caring can be gauged by the manner in which it responds to the needs of the helpless animals uncared for by irresponsible or uncaring owners. Turner wants it to be known how much he personally appreciates the Council looking at the budget so seriously this evening and considering the need for the various areas where increase seems to be necessary for the function of the Board. It does not take them long in Animal Care to eat up there the funds in that budget and he deeply appreciates their work and words this evening. Adding that they are out there on Riggins Road, when people drive by they don't realize all that the workers do for the community. In closing, Robinson thanks him in return and appreciates all of his service to the Shelter.

Elizabeth Edgell, Delaware County community Awareness, recalls speaking on the animal shelter before. It is a really important issue to the community and believes the past two times she has spoken, it has been concerning the Shelter. She concurs with everything Mr. Turner said and would like to see the employees make more money and mentions how the Council was willing to give \$5,000 to community service for the Police Officers at the snap of a finger. Yet, they are crippling over a couple dollars for people that start their year out behind. She states Browning also gives \$10,000 of his salary back to the program so that they can make ends meet. She has toured the facility and would suggest that if you haven't, you should because he (Mr. Turner) is exactly right. How we treat our animals is very, very telling in how we treat each other. She wants it to be known her Facebook group of 20,000 people absolutely support this. It is a very important issue to them and they would like to see some more attention given to it.

Kristopher Bilbrey wanted to answer Councilman Dishman's question from earlier on the money that's brought back in after it goes through Court. He states there are three or four non-reverting funds the Animal Shelter has and the money goes back into there. He doesn't know what is going on with those funds currently or how much money is in there but that's where it will be and where it is at. Lastly, he just wanted to say congratulations on what they are doing with the Animal Shelter and the increases they are doing in working with the Department Heads. He thinks that is something that needs to be done and commend the Council on their work. They are doing an amazing job.

Ethan Browning, Animal Shelter Director, wishes to correct that previous statement and explains those court costs don't go into their non-reverting funds. What actually goes into their non-reverting funds is 20% of their Reclaimed fees go into Fund #278 Capital Improvement. The 20% and 80% of the adoption fees are divided amongst those two funds as well. Robinson has a few questions and refers to the Interlocal Agreement with the County for \$150,000 every year and asks when the last time that was revisited and they sat down with the County to ask for a little bit more money. Browning believes it was in 2019 but cannot speak on the directly. Robinson refers to a conversation he had with Councilman Garrett and a very great point was made that it isn't just the Muncie Animal Shelter, it is the Delaware County

Animal Shelter. \$150,000 that comes from the County mentioning that the City is being asked to consider an additional increase on the 911 Interlocal Agreement to help share with those expenses of 911 so why can't the County provide some more money to help take care of the animals. He would love to see a re-negotiation of that Interlocal Agreement and if they can change those terms midstream. Also, aware of how they do it on a per-call bases with other communities like Eaton and Albany, he would love to see the numbers on that and how many calls are being made there. Maybe it is a situation where the County Government can just subsidize the entire County outside of Muncie and maybe it could bring in more money to be able to start providing. Robinson continues, agreeing with Dishman and Ms. Edgell. They need to take care of this. To Dr. Turner's point about euthanizing more animals, that is something he will never be okay with recalling the highest Live Release Rate the Shelter can obtain, the better. In order to do that, they need some additional funding so he is happy to help with those conversations. He hasn't talked to one councilmember here that doesn't 100% support what the Shelter is doing and want to provide as many resources as they can, although limited, encourages other ways to find revenue. Browning agrees and believes there is room for negotiation there with the Interlocal Agreement because they do service all of unincorporated Delaware County as well which is a very large area that takes up a lot of time and resources. Browning also thanks the Council for giving special attention to these situations, listening and providing feedback. It's very appreciated and will allow them to be able to provide better services to the community while taking care of their own employees. The Council hanks him.

Kathy Bland makes the comment she does not know why she had not thought about the County before or about how much they put in (the last she heard, she thought it was \$150,000 or something) but that is something the City definitely needs to address and get on board. We bring in an awful lot of animals from the County, not just the City. Moving on, she mentions watching the meeting last month and noticed there were some questions about the food issue and some were wanting to raise the budget and some didn't understand. She wanted to explain a little bit about that. First of all, she thanks them for increasing what they already have and in her opinion, \$13 is a fair salary to start to get people to stay. Yes, \$15 would be great but she would prefer the Animal Control Officers to make a little more. As a City, she would want to have good quality people in those jobs as they are driving a City vehicle that has "City of Muncie" all over it to have a little more mature people in those jobs. On the food, she explains that Director Browning has a budget for dog food, cat food and litter is included. She doesn't think anyone in this community has any idea how of much food that Shelter goes through and believes the Council would have to raise the budget \$200,000 more just to feed these animals. The community is great but even when the Shelter does not reach out for help, they still continue to donate every once in a while although it is certainly not enough. There's three individuals, two mostly, but between the three of them they have 120 years of animal rescue. The Shelter has partnered with Indy Humane on Holmes Ave. in Indianapolis (their main location on Michigan but this being like a food pantry) and every seven weeks, the Shelter is notified and Browning alerts the individuals with a time and date when it's time for them to come. She is saying this not as a "pat on the Back" but in trying to just explain how much they do try to get free things to help with this budget. She continues that one of the girl's husband owns a business here in Muncie, Norrick Petroleum, and allows them to drive his big truck over providing the fuel, obviously, because he owns a fuel company. They go pick up what used to be as much food as they could get in an hour but that has since changed due to Covid but additionally thinks it might have changed a little bit on both ends because they were three pretty hard working women and could get a whole lot in an hour. Now, they can buy two skids

with 25 bags of anywhere from 38 to 50-lb bags of good-quality food, not Alpo for example. They don't have to feed them the best but they don't want to feed them Alpo either which has red dye in it. If anyone wants to come see what happens when you feed 80 dogs worth of Alpo, come on out and she will show how it's not a pretty sight. Anyway, they get that for \$80 at \$40 a skid that they pay for themselves. Browning offers them a credit card every time but each time they say keep it for litter because they're limited. Chewy comes in every Tuesday and Thursday in two big semis and unloads every Tuesday, which Bland goes out to volunteer. They unload just thousands and thousands of pounds of dog food and sort it out. Any shelter in the State of Indiana can come every seven weeks and do this program. Back to what they receive, she explains they get two pallets of food, two Tidy cat containers of wet cat food, two five-gallon Lowe's buckets of wet dog food and are limited to just ten bags of cat food and ten bags of litter. The bags comes from defected busted bags and the cat food is so light that there's just not that much busted bags so they hardly ever get that many in. Lastly, everywhere needs litter so that is limited because obviously they would take a lot of bags and probably short someone else out. Anyway, it is a huge savings. Referring to Councilman Clark questioning about doing fundraisers and stuff, they do put on fundraisers but right now there's just no time. There's not enough employees meaning nobody is there to do that. There's little things that come in, for instance, within the last month she received a phone call from a lady from New Jersey that said, "hey I have 200 lbs of fresh pet dog food up in Wakarusa, Indiana and if you can go get it, it's yours." Bland thought to herself where the heck is Wakarusa but obviously said okay, we'll take it. She recalls not knowing if they had enough freezers to store it or anything. That amounted to probably \$6,000 to \$8,000 worth of food right there. A call came in right after that from Sharon Sharker, Action for Animals, who had a whole semi of litter coming from Arm & Hammer and if they could help pay for the skid and find a place to unload it, they could have some. So, they got a hold of Second Harvest who allowed them to use their dock and forklift truck. They ended up paying the forklift operator and brought in at least \$4,000 worth of litter that week. Bland just wants the Council to know that there are people in groups and things like that doing things like this all the time. It may not be public because they don't want to go public. However, the food is okay. Until the day she dies those animals are going to have food but she would love to see if there is any money anywhere to put it towards employees right now. Acknowledging the new Assistant Director, she is hoping to get to work with her and start telling her some of the medical contacts they have and different things so they can try to get some more free meds in. There's all kinds of resources out there but they have to have the time and the people be able to do it. They are all trying and she knows the Council is trying as well and she appreciates it but she would like to invite the three newest members to come out to the Shelter sometime. They did the same thing out at the Fire Department. Bland mentions she wants to have them clean out a dog kennel, the cat kennels and do the laundry, etc. They only have two commercial washers and one commercial dryer and can't even keep up with the laundry. She explains that sometimes, she and Debbie will take seventeen or eighteen bags to a laundromat if one of the fryers or washers are down. It's pretty embarrassing to go in there with all these blankets full of feces and urine and they just need a little more extra money to update some things like that out there. President Robinson thanks her for everything she does for the Shelter. Bland states that is not why she came up here and wants the Council to know that Browning is doing a great job and there are a lot of people in this City that are working really hard. Nobody is a millionaire but they're trying to get it going and just need a little bit of help on the budget to get some

good people in there and get them to stay. It's not anyone's fault, it's just the way the world is right now.

Mary Stilts is on the Board of Directors as well and claims that both Bland and Browning have been a godsend to the Shelter. The employees out there do double-duty and bust their butts to get in there and really work hard. Every time she goes in there, they are swinging mops or cleaning up kennels. Stilts doesn't think any one of the councilmembers would want to do that eight hours a day at five days a week. It is gross cleaning out cat boxes. She doesn't think most anybody in here wants to go in there and do that for \$10.10 an hour so she appreciates the boost in pay. These kids and young people out there need that money and are supporting families same as everyone else is. One girl that works out there gave up a better-paying job as a telemarketer and went to the Animal Shelter to clean up cat boxes and take care of cats. The heart is out there and Browning has a good relationship with every one of his employees as well as everyone on the Board and doesn't hesitate to call and talk to them. In closing, Stilts appreciates everything the Council is doing to put the good fight in for the Animal Shelter because they deserve it. Every single one of those kids out there deserve that pat on the back.

Councilman Polk wishes to make it clear why he said \$12.75 an hour. The only reason was he was planning to take that money and roll it into Food & Litter to increase that line. He wanted to bump it up even more than the original \$5,000 requested. That is the only reason he said that and is just trying to find some money without breaking the bank. Councilwoman Selvey concurs and mentions she and Polk earlier spoke and agreed but then later decided he would agree on \$12.75 if that money goes back to the Food and ask for the allowance. She explains his heart was in the right place too so she didn't want anybody out there to be upset. Bland, again, states she wasn't upset about that and thinks \$12.75 is great and she, herself, would work for that amount. She just wanted the Council to know that it is much better than it has been in years past and that's because of the Council, the Mayor and Director Browning. Bland goes back and states they could still use an increase but it is mostly due to litter because nobody hardly ever gives away free litter. She is going to work on that and attempt to get ahold of every company that has ever made litter to see if they can get some more brought in like they received from Ohio last week.

Robinson informs they still have a few more requested increases in the Animal Shelter. A motion is made by Selvey and seconded by Ingram to amend Institutional & Medical (line #422132) with an increase \$20,000 to take it from \$130,000 up to \$150,000. Polk asks for the record how much has been spent out of this line so far this year. Robinson replies so far, they have bent \$175,000. Polk states he doesn't see the numbers coming down on the cats and dogs there and that Browning has a big influx of animals come may when Ball State moves out. They are cute when they are puppies but when they grow up people don't want them. Ingram states when he spoke with Browning, he even said that he was pulling salary from the Assistant Director position to help pay for some of the major medical bills. Director Browning approaches and informs they actually can't do that because that is a cross of the categories and is not from the labor fund. For the medical, there are non-reverting funds set up and used as a piggybank for them to hold on to that money and supplement that and not have to go too far into the General Fund. 20% of the Adoption fees and Reclaim fees go into the non-reverting funds for Capital Improvement. It is a slow grading fund because they often have to waive fees and think there's possibly (maybe) \$12,000 in there. Majority approval from the Council and the Board must to be adopted before the Shelter can even touch that and is there for improvements to the building. 80% of the Reclaim fees go into the General Fund and then the

remaining 80% of the Adoption fees go into the Spay & Neuter Fund. That is how they are able to supplement by using those non-reverting funds. When he says they have used \$175,000 this year, they have not used that out of the Institutional & Medical line item but generally in medical costs. They did receive a grant for \$20,000 from Petco and a \$5,000 Bissell grant secured by the Rescue Coordinator, Dana, which Browning claims definitely helped. They spent the remainder of (he believes) \$114,000 out of the Institutional & Medical actual line item which is from the donations they receive and from that Spay & Neuter Fund that 80% of adoption fees fund. Polk clarifies \$114,000 has been spent out of \$130,000. Browning confirms. Polk acknowledges we're in October with two-and-a-half more months of the year and it is getting cold. Browning totally agrees and they are hoping, again, for grants. However, that is why he appreciates the \$20,000 the Council is willing to amend there to help supplement that. He does want to mention that they have donation funds that are still bringing in some funds along with a small amount of adoption fees as well. Robinson reminds everyone that the motion was made by Selvey and seconded by Ingram to Amend with increase of \$20,000 from \$130,000 to \$150,000 in Institution & Medical (line #422132). An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. Amended.

The next line is Food & Litter (line #422111) in which they originally discussed adding an additional \$5,000. A motion is made by Selvey and seconded by Polk to Amend for an increase of \$8,000 into the Food & Litter (line #422111), (\$3,000 for Food and \$5,000 for Litter and that she does not want Kathy to be mad at her) making the new line grand total \$18,000. No further discussion. Robinson confirms this would make the new total of all amendments made \$1,072,766. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. Amended.

Next Up, Auto Repairs (line #436021) currently budgeted at \$5,000. The Animal Shelter has six vehicles currently in their fleet and would like an additional appropriation of \$5,000 making the total \$10,000. A motion is made by Ingram and seconded by Polk to Amend Auto Repairs (line #436021) by an increase of \$5,000 making the total \$10,000. Selvey wishes Browning to explain the description of the fleet and how old the vehicles are. She wonders if they are putting money into something that just needs to retire. Director Browning explains their main fleet consists of three 2014 GMC Sierra's (all with the Muncie logo wraps), two of which have the full stainless steel boxes on the back so they can fit two large dogs and two smaller dogs or cats on the sides along with compartments for storage. They have one pick-up truck that has a removable box that also helps if they have to pick up any large amounts of donations or transport supplies. It is actually currently in the shop due to an automobile accident. That is a good example for Selvey there but Browning believes it was covered by insurance. Those are the three main ones but they also have a van that was given to them by the County per the Interlocal Agreement. It is his understanding that the (the County) is supposed to keep up the maintenance and supplies for that vehicle as well but that is something that needs to be revisited. It is a very old van, around 2004. That brings them up to four vehicles that they use frequently and then a 2004 Buick Rendezvous that he typically drives to meetings and when he is out in the field. It can get kind of messy so it is not always good to put something that is possibly a biohazard on and track that into your home. Then, they have a 2002 Chevy Tahoe that sat for a long time and was the original Assistant's vehicle. The Street Department got it fixed up after sitting for so long but now they are having some trouble with it again so it is in the shop. They are running with the two wrapped Animal Control trucks with the full-seized boxes on the back, the van and Buick Rendezvous right now. No further discussion. An all-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas and 1 nay (Clark). Amended.

A motion is made by Ingram and seconded by Green to Amend Building Maintenance & Repairs (line #436025) with a request for an additional \$2,500 to execute and maintain the new HVAC contract. Clark assumes there has been a request for proposal of a maintenance contract and asks if there is a document they can go by. He further questions if this is a firm bid washing rooftop units and replacing filters and such. Director Browning explains he got the opportunity to sit down with Deputy Mayor Ivy and discuss their needs. The contract they had been going with was not giving them very good service, which was causing more issues. They actually have ten heating and cooling units in the Shelter with two units in the back and just one of those is \$26,000 retail price. They are very expensive units and needs to be maintained properly so it is not just the washing. They are greasing bearings, changing filters, looking out for any kind of situation or any vibration or noise that that shouldn't be happening and generally taking a more proactive approach whereas the previous contractor did not provide them anything close to that. Clark asks if it is a monthly or quarterly visit. Browning states it is a monthly visit. That price would actually seem high and that is just because that includes the cost of all the filters and belts for the ten units. No further discussion. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Amended.**

The last requested amendment is an addition of \$5,000 in the (line #439071) Other Services & Charges. Robinson explains the way this was explained to him was the person that handles rehoming of Shelter animals to maintain Live Release Rates is currently under contract for \$18,000 per year. The Shelter pays that obligation through this line item and has had to use money from donations to supplement the remainder. This additional \$5,000 would be able to satisfy that contract for that person that rehomes these animals. A motion is made by Robinson and seconded by Ingram to Amend Other Services & Charges (line #439071) with an increase of \$5,000. No further discussion. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Amended.**

Amendments made to the Prairie Creek Budget:

President Robinson informs there are no suggested increases on the Prairie Creek budget and asks if anyone is wishing to make any amendments. No further discussion.

Amendments made to the IT Budget:

Robinson reminds everyone that they heard from Mr. Williams earlier this evening and there are some requests within this Department. They begin with Computers, Supplies & Parts (line #421037) and first is a \$4,000 increase to increase server to storage speeds 10 gigabyte managed switch transceivers (for which he doesn't know what any of that means but was what he was told). A motion is made by Selvey and seconded by Ingram to Amend line #421037 with a \$4,000 increase. Councilman Clark states obviously some of the stuff is a necessity as they go through and some things, as Adam mentioned before, is a wish list that they can work on funding as they look into next year. Then, if the budget allows it, they can appropriate at the time but he doesn't think this is anything that they would have to stop operations if they did not fund it. He is only saying that looking as they decrease the potential Rainy Day Fund. In his terms of budgeting, they are becoming closer to relying on paycheck to paycheck on money they assume will be there next year. Robinson reminds everyone again, the amount for increase is \$4,000 for software that will increase server to storage speeds. Selvey adds with the new software that is being added, all that information needs to be stored somewhere so if they need to increase it, she understands (and refers to the footage on body cams). Robinson believes the body cams are separate, in terms of storage and that is done through AXON. He is

unsure of how much information the City needs but assumes it would be a lot and Mr. Williams is no longer here to ask. An all-in-favor vote showed 6 yeas and 3 nays (Green, Clark and Robinson). Amended.

Same line, a \$3,200, again, to increase storage capacity at a total cost and they want to do this eight times at \$400 per time so totaling \$3,200 to 1.8 terabyte each and, quality and speed. Ingram assumes this is just giving more room for storage. A motion is made by Polk and seconded by Davis to Amend to increase \$3,200 to storage capacity in Computer, Supplies & Parts (line #421037). Polk reiterates Selvey's previous comment. There is going to be more data so there has to be more storage capacity. As society goes more and more into computers, downloading and all that (in lieu of saving paper) he thinks that is significant. Clark asks if it is known if this is cloud-based or on a physical hard drive somewhere. Ingram believes he heard it was on a physical hard drive. Robinson believes most secure city systems are internal servers rather than cloud-based. He adds, though, that he has no idea what it is so is going to vote in favor of that. He is sure it is important but as mentioned earlier these are improvements they can make as they move down the road and he doesn't believe it is anything pressing. That is (kind of) where he stands, to let everybody know. No further discussion. An all-in-favor vote showed 1 yeas (Polk) and 8 nays. Denied.

The next suggested increase, in the same line item, is for \$7,700 to replace outdated computers, four at the Animal Shelter, three between the Human Rights Department and Personnel. A motion is made by Selvey and seconded by Robinson to Amend Computers, Supplies & Parts (line #421037) with an increase of \$7,700. From what Robinson understands, there are a number of computers that are outdated throughout the City departments but these are seven that are due for that replacement. Additionally, there's some others that have been taken off the list but these were in the Animal Shelter and Human Rights for a total of \$7,000. Clark thinks it is great to see this but he just doesn't know how it was missed on the original budget. He mentions the discussion with the Animal Shelter Director over the past year moving towards running a more software based Shelter and asks if this would help get them started in that direction. Browning states it definitely would. Their building is very large at 17,000 square feet and part of the building has a metal roof and siding so the Wi-Fi signal is not very good back there. They are still trying to find a way to make that happen and finding appropriate software that will actually be sustainable and efficient. Right now, there's just not anyone to man that software as he really hoped to roll it out this year but staffing had a different plan there. He hopes to have something in place and go about it next year. The computers are very old and take a long time just to run a google search or write up a word document. He didn't realize that was something that was going to be addressed but is very pleased because it does take a lot of time just to get them to turn on. Clark adds that Ball State was on board in helping assist with that process bringing in two students and paying half of their salary to help in that transition. Browning is definitely interested in that but is not sure how to make that work because first and foremost they have to cover their vital services with the labor. If they had to pay half of that person's salary, while it is certainly better than all of their salary but right now and going into the next year the salary is all taken up with the vital services of caring for the animals and running the Animal Control. Clark asks if he is willing to consider it. Browning answers yes, absolutely. Robinson explains, depending on the cost, perhaps that is something they can make an additional appropriation down to the road to cover because he agrees in that being something important and if records can be digitized and the systems be used, that could be really important. Clark believes it would buy time down the road for the staff to tend to other responsibilities. Browning explains they did try a software

in 2017-2018 but ran into the issues of staffing so staff was having to take it home. He clarifies he wasn't in charge at the time but was an employee and at home, the staff was trying to enter it and the more it feel behind, the more pointless it became because it was inaccurate at that point. That is why they gave up or put it on the backburner rather until they could find something sustainable and efficient. In closing, he adds he is all for that and appreciates that. No further discussion. Again, this is for a \$7,700 increase to replace four outdated computers in the Animal Shelter and three in Human Rights/Personnel to line #421037. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Amended.**

The last item in Computers, Supplies & Parts is \$8,500 to provide for a new server replacement, Dell R440W192 GB Ram. No motion is made. The total for IT is \$11,700 total so the total overall so far is \$1,104,966 down from the original requested increase of \$23,400.

Moving on, there is a requested increase of \$12,000 to Other Services & Charges (line #439071) for a renewal of software called KnowBe4 which is a cybersecurity and training tool to help employees recognize phishing attempts or spyware. The three-year subscription is expiring and they would like to renew. A motion is made by Davis and seconded by Selvey to Amend. Councilman Polk states from his work at the credit union, they have done something very similar to this. He recalls this is what Mr. Williams was referring to earlier during the IT presentation where they send out mock emails. He claims it was amazing that a few of the employees had to take the test over. It is not at their fault, just that they are very believable emails. It is a great program and it is very easy for the employees to go through it on their own time. Councilman Ingram actually goes back to the hacked emails he received from the Mayor in which there were two from someone asking him to purchase \$300 worth of iTunes giftcards. Dishman and Garrett state they both received the same thing. No further discussion. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. **Amended.**

5-Minutes Recess.

Amendments made to the City Clerk's Office Budget:

President Robinson advises there are no recommended increases for the City Clerk's budget and asks if anyone has any amendments they wish to make. No further discussion.

Amendments made to the City Attorney's Budget:

Robinson informs there are additional increases recommended for the City Attorney and asks if anyone is wishing to make any amendments. No further discussion.

Amendments made to the City Court Budget:

Robinson advises there are no recommended increases for City Court and asks if anyone is wishing to make any amendments. No further discussion.

Amendments made to the City Council Budget:

Robinson states there was one requested increase that has been withdrawn and asks if there is any other amendments that anyone would like to make. No further discussion.

Amendments to the Board of Works Budget:

Robinson mentions the suggested increase of \$100,000 for the Communication Center (line #432041) which is per the 911 Interlocal Agreement. The current agreement calls for an

increase in the City payment to increase it to \$1,000,000 taking the line from \$900,000 to \$1,000,000.

A motion is made by Ingram and seconded by Polk to Amend. Councilman Ingram, as a member of the 911 Board, explains that he and the Mayor have been working very hard and diligently on coming up with an equitable proposal for the City and the County. He recommends approving this to relay good faith to the County that we, the City, are willing to meet our portion as long as an equitable agreement can be reached. Mayor Ridenour confirms he is also on the 911 Board with Ingram and reiterates that it is now back and forth. The County sent an agreement and the City sent one... It has been sent to the Attorneys and just because it is appropriated doesn't mean it has to be spent. The City is asking for some changes that are pretty substantial to what the current agreement calls for and feel important to help with the management of that and the operation of that particular facility. As long as they can come up with an agreement that helps the City have that influence that is needed (and only if that happens) then they can look at spending what the Council appropriates. Robinson questions when the Council can expect to see the Interlocal Agreement. Council Attorney Gibson confirms that would be passed by resolution. Robinson wonders if they can anticipate that in December before the end of the year. Mayor Ridenour answers yes, he believes so. Both sides have been pushing and there are attorneys on both sides involved so it is a process. Questions called. Ingram believes he sent all the council members copies of both the City and County proposal today.

An all-in-favor vote showed 8 yeas and 1 nays (Robinson). Amended.

Total Amendments:

After all amendments, the grand total is \$1,216,966. The total increases as requested were \$1,237,089, which gives a remainder of \$20,123. A motion is made by Ingram and seconded by Polk to Amend to appropriate \$20,123 to the Rainy Day Fund (line #439071). No further discussion. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. Amended. A motion is made by Polk and seconded by Ingram to Adopt as Amended. No further discussion. A roll call vote showed 8 yeas and 1 nay (Dishman). Adopted as Amended.

Ordinances Previously Introduced:

Ord. 49-21 An Ordinance Fixing the Maximum Salaries of Each and Ever Appointed Officer, Employee, Deputy, Assistant, Departmental and Institutional Head for the City of Muncie, Indiana Included Herein for the Year 2022.

A motion is made by Clark and seconded by Ingram to Adopt.

Robinson informs this is the salary ordinance for 2022 and has to be passed, in addition to the Budget, by November 1st. Introduction today and they will hear it for Adoption at the November meeting. An all-in-favor vote showed 9 yeas and 0 nays. Introduced.

Councilman Clark thanks President Robinson for his hard work and knows a lot of time was spent outside of this Council Chamber. He knows he takes a lot of heat acknowledging he is the one giving it to him sometimes but as the governing body of City finances, they just have to always question and look for efficiencies. He thinks Robinson has done a good job with it this year. Robinson thanks him in return.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Polk and seconded by Green to Adjourn. A vote by acclamation showed 8 yeas and 1 nay (Robinson). **Adjourned.**



Jeff Robinson, President of the
Muncie Common Council

Belinda Munson, Muncie City Clerk
of the Muncie Common Council